



**Starts:** Mirfield railway station

**Ends:** Hartshead Church

**Length:** Four miles.

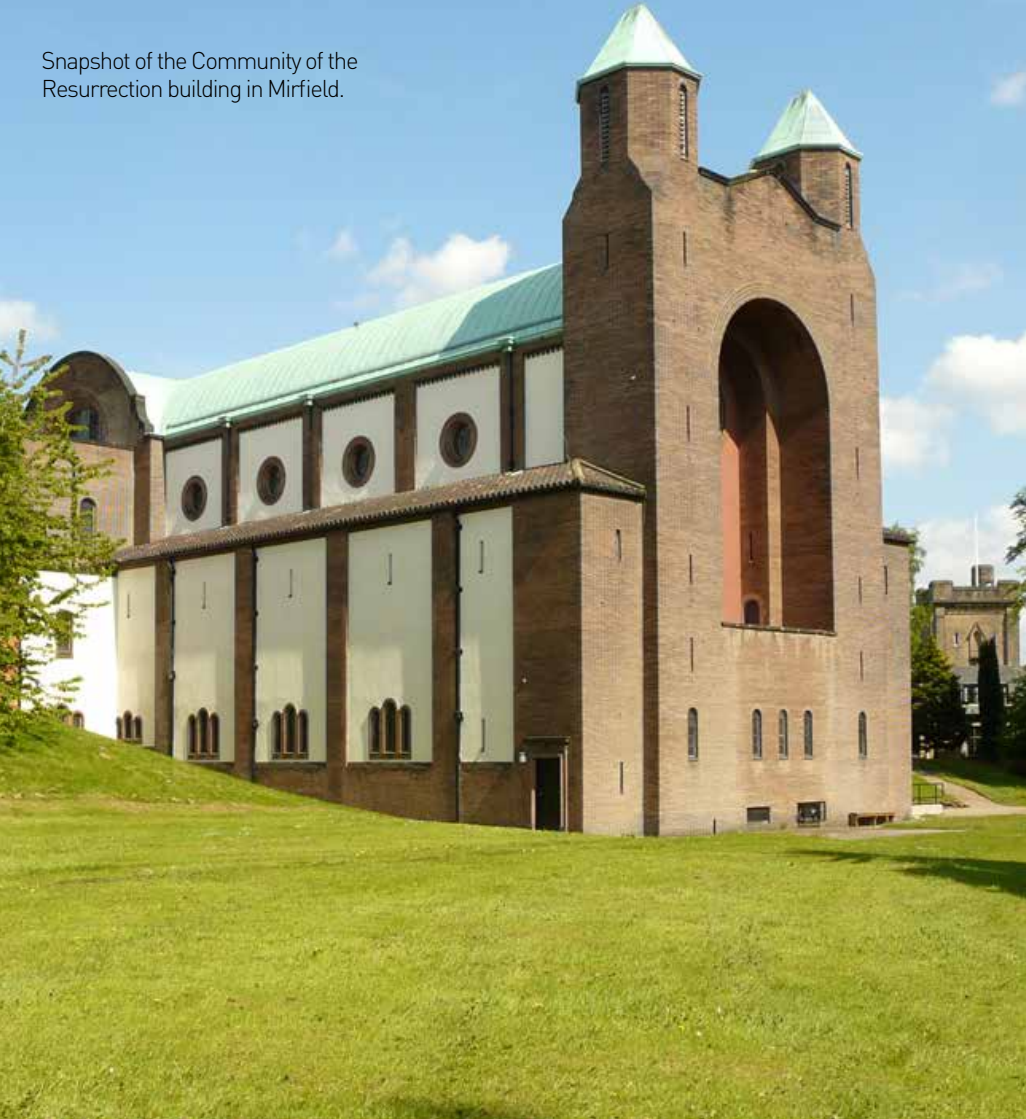
Leave the railway station and turn right to walk under the bridge towards the town centre. Cross the canal bridge and, just before the Lidl Supermarket sign, turn left to go down an incline to reach the canal towpath. Walk along it to reach, and pass, the first bridge, Ledgard Bridge.

Continue under it and then turn sharp right up an incline to gain access to Newgate Road. Having done so turn right, walk forward over the canal bridge and then continue on road under the railway bridge and over the river bridge. Turn right past shops and offices to be confronted by a split in the roads ahead.

Take the left hand route up Chadwick Fold Lane and then right into Woodend Road. Pass the school on left and quickly enter the Calder Valley Greenway. Near its end it crosses over a road bridge and bears right to reach an exit into Helme Lane.

Turn right down Helme Lane to a T junction. Turn left, pass under two bridges and continue along Wood Lane to arrive at the canal bridge and Battyford Toll Bridge.

Snapshot of the Community of the Resurrection building in Mirfield.



From this point continue along Wood Lane to join the main A644 Huddersfield Road. Turn right and, on reaching the Pear Tree Inn, bear left to cross the road and enter The Clough.

Climb upwards to join Stocksbank Road. Turn left and walk up the road passing the House of the Resurrection on the left.

*The House, often referred to as the Mirfield monastery, is home to the Community of the Resurrection, an Anglican religious community for men which was founded in 1892 and came to Mirfield six years later. It undertakes charitable work both at home and overseas and strives to prepare students for work in the church. Notable names among students have included Bishop Trevor Huddleston, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams.*

Continue up the hill and round the corner to reach the Church of Christ the King. At this point cross the road and continue in the same direction along Stocksbank Road.

When opposite the Post Office take the footpath on the right which is identified by a Public Footpath sign and a stone gatepost. Move uphill, cross an estate road and continue forwards along the footpath to join the A62 Huddersfield to Leeds Road.

On doing so turn right, cross the road and continue uphill. After 50 yards or so find a bus stop and alongside it a metal gate and a stile at the side. Climb over it to enter a field.

Keeping the hedge on the left go straight forward down the field and maintain the same direction. On reaching the far gateway at the bottom turn right to move through a stile in the corner and then climb up the next field keeping a wall on the right. At the top cross a stile and follow the path to the left through the woods.

On leaving the wood turn right on the footpath which has a wall on the right. After 50 yards turn left into Dockentail

Wood, drop down, cross the beck and climb up the other side. Continue up the side of the field with the hedge on the left. At the top of the field ignore all the paths except the one to the left.

Climb to the top of the hill, cross two stiles and follow the footpath on the right to reach the main road in Hartshead village. On doing so turn left, continue on the road past the Gray Ox public house and bear right to the church at Hartshead, a village which has connections with both the Brontë family and the infamous outlaw Robin Hood.

*The church was founded in Norman times and in the early 19th century the Rev Patrick Brontë, who had worked as curate at Dewsbury Minster, was made vicar of Hartshead. This was where he met his wife-to-be Maria Branwell.*

*Robin Hood, said to be buried in the ground of nearby Kirklees Priory – although some insist he is buried in*

*Hartshead churchyard – is reputed to have made his final arrow from the old yew tree whose remains still remain in the Hartshead churchyard. As he fired off the arrow he directed that he should be buried where it landed.*

*Opposite the churchyard is a mounting block - to help people mount their horses - and a pair of stocks. The actions of the Chartists and Luddites are very much a part of local history and it is believed that a number of Luddites, killed in a local clash, are buried in the churchyard.*

**This is the end of Section 3 and buses can be found to connect with Dewsbury and Heckmondwike.**

Hartshead Church with stump of old tree in foreground from which the legendary outlaw Robin Hood is reputed to have fashioned the arrow which he used to determine his burial place.

